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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

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## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☐ abstract

☒ title

☒ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	US 1 434 631 A (REYNOLDS JAMES J) 7 November 1922 (1922-11-07)	1,2,6	F16L27/06 F16L27/04
Y	* page 1, line 25 - page 2, line 6; figures 1,2 *	3-5	
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X	US 4 893 847 A (HESS ROBERT A) 16 January 1990 (1990-01-16)	1,6,7	
Y	* column 2, line 50 - column 4, line 16; figures 1-5 *	3	
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			F16L
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		3 April 2003	Popescu, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone			
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D : document cited in the application			
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& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 02 25 7209

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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03-04-2003

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## ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

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A flexible coupling for a ducting system. The coupling comprises a first member (1) including a first engaging member (2), the first member defining a receiving portion and a second member (3) including a second engaging member (4), the second member, in use, engaging with the receiving portion such that the first (1) and second (3) members can be held together to define a retaining cavity. The coupling has a seal (6) arranged to seal, in use, the gap between the first (1) and a third (7) member. A third member (7) is retained, in use, in the retaining cavity such that it is rotatable in any of the three rotational degrees of freedom within the cavity. There is a carbon first load bearing member (8) positioned between the second (3) and third (7) members such that, in use, the load bearing member (8) provides a load bearing surface in engagement with the surface of the second member (3).